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22 July 1954

### FRENCH WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

1. ASSOCIATION DES FRANCAISES DIPLOMEES D'UNIVERSITE  
(Association of French University Women) 1/  
Reid Hall, 4 Rue de Chevreuse, Paris 2/

President: Mme. R. Lelievre 2/

Member of the International Federation of University Women. Main center in Paris. A few branches in the provinces and some members scattered through France, but all action centers in Paris. 1/ Members c. 900. 2/ Concerned with professional problems of university women. No political affiliations. 1/

2. COMITE DE LIAISON DES ASSOCIATIONS FRANCAISES FEMININES  
(CLAFF, Liaison Committee of French Women's Associations) 1/

President: Mme. de Lipkowsk  
191 Blvd. St. Germain, Paris 7

Secretary: Mme. Jean Barbizet  
14 Ave. Georges Mandel, Paris 16

Formed to establish liaison between French women's organizations, national and international, and between women of most political parties. Organized in 1946 to coordinate the efforts of its member groups for campaigns in favor of peace, women's rights, etc. Its original purpose has been somewhat diluted and its functions now are mainly social; i.e., welcoming foreign women and putting them in contact with French women. No life in provinces. No wide influence now. Its potentially great value unused. No political affiliations.

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3. CONFEDERATION FRANCAISE DE TRAVAILLEURS CHRETIENS -  
COMMISSION CONFEDERAL FEMININE  
(French Confederation of Christian Workers - Women's  
Federal Commission) 1/

Secretary: Mms. Simone Troisgros  
26 Rue Montholon, Paris

Forty-two per cent of the workers in 1,000 unions are women. Women do not have separate unions but are organized with the men. The Commission Confederale Feminine works to emphasize importance of equal pay to women for equal work, of having women on committees, of assuring women's rights in law, of publishing articles about working women, of "forming" women to be able to assume equal responsibilities with men, of encouraging women to come forward in union work. The CFTC is the second largest trade union in France and is based on Christian principles.

4. CONSEIL NATIONAL DES FEMMES FRANCAISES  
(National Council of French Women) 1/

President: Mms. Pichon-Landry  
102 Rue de Grenelle, Paris 7

Secy. Gen: Mme. Jean Barbizet  
14 Ave. Georges Mandel, Paris 16

Founded in 1901 to achieve civil, economic and political equality of men and women. Represents about 100 groups: associations of general interest, welfare groups, professional groups. Has a few branches in provinces but does practically nothing there. Work centers in Paris. Works to get principle of equality into legislative and administrative texts. Its broad aims are divided into family responsibilities, professional responsibilities, civic responsibilities and international responsibilities. Member of International Council of Women. Chief coordinator and spokesman of women's groups. Political leanings of its members are mainly conservative, rightist.

5. FEDERATION NATIONALE DES FEMMES  
(National Federation of Women) 2/  
6 Rue Raffet, Paris 16

President and  
Gen. Secy: Mme. Brigitte Luc (since 1948)

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Joint Gen.  
Secretary: Maitre Suzanne Chatillon

Founded 1928, members c. 25,000, largely Catholic.  
Distributes information to women which assists them in  
exercising an influence on public opinion; encourages women  
to shoulder their full responsibilities as citizens. Influential;  
anti-Communist.

6. LES FEMMES CHEFS D'ENTREPRISE  
(Association of Women Heads of Business) 1/

President: Mme Yvonne Edmond Foinant  
25 Rue De Mouzaia, Paris 19

Association of women who are heads of business, agriculture,  
industry, (not liberal career women), either women who run things  
alone or in partnership with their husbands. Founded since World  
War II by Mme. Foinant and run by her. Members, c. 15,000. 2/

7. GUIDES DE FRANCE  
(Girl Guides of France) 2/  
16 Rue Ernest Psichari, Paris 7

President: Mme. de Kerraoul

Girl Scouts. Membership c. 40,000. 3/

8. INTERNATIONALE DES MERES ET DES EDUCATRICES POUR LA PAIX  
(International (Society) of Mothers and Educators for Peace) 2/  
67 Ave. de Royat Chamalieres, Puy de Dome

Affiliated with Union Mondiale de la Femme pour la Concorde  
Internationale (World Union of Women for International Peace), an  
international organization with Paris headquarters, to raise status  
of the mother and family. Founded 1928. Members, c. 150,000.  
Supposed to assist people and organizations who work for peace.  
Against violence, racial and religious prejudice.

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9. LA LIGUE FEMININE D'ACTION CATHOLIQUE SOCIALE  
(Women's League for Catholic Social Action) 1/  
Headquarters: 98 Rue de l'Universite, Paris

Catholic social action group. Very close to the Catholic Church and controlled in its activities by the priests. Often in sharp disagreement with the Union Feminine Civique et Sociale because of the latter's broader viewpoint and program.

10. MOUVEMENTS FEMININS D'ACTION CATHOLIQUES  
(Women's Movements for Catholic Action) 1/  
246 Boulevard Saint-Denis, Courbevoie (Seine)

Very important. Directs the influential groups for Catholic young women, of which the chief ones are:

- a. Jeunesse Agricole Chretienne Feminine  
(Women's Christian Farm Youth)
- b. Jeunesse Etudiante Chretienne Feminine  
(Women's Christian Student Youth)
- c. Jeunesse Independante Chretienne Feminine  
(Women's Independent Christian Youth)

Daughters of the bourgeoisie; white collar; very small.

- d. Jeunesse Ouvriere Chretienne Feminine  
(Young Women Christian Workers)

Most significant.

11. RASSEMBLEMENT DES FEMMES REPUBLICAINES 1/  
(Rally of Republican Women)  
Headquarters: 7 bis Place du Palais Bourbon, Paris 7

President: Mme. Jacqueline Thome-Patenotre  
58 Ave. Foch, Paris 16

This is the women's branch of the Rassemblement des Gauches Republicaines (RGR - conservative rightist political party). No other political party except the Communist has a women's branch.

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This one publishes a monthly newspaper for women, is striving to build circulation in the provinces, to organize groups of RGR women outside Paris. Very active, growing.

12. SOCIETE POUR L'AMELIORATION DU SORT DE LA FEMME ET LA REVENDICATION DE SES DROITS (Society for the Improvement of the Status of Woman and for Claiming her Rights) 1/

President: Maitre Yvonne Netter  
3 Quai aux Fleurs, Paris 4

Founded 1900. Members: 1,000. Supposed to protect women's rights.

13. UNION FEMININE CIVIQUE ET SOCIALE  
(Women's Civic and Social Union) 1/

President: Mlle. Butillard  
2 Ave. Gabriel, Paris

Gen Sec'y: Mlle. Helen Caron  
25 Rue de Valois, Paris

Organized in 1925 to improve social and civic conditions of women. Has about 70,000 members, 75 branches in cities and departments of France, five of which are in overseas territories. Publishes monthly newspaper, quarterly magazine. Democratic organization, with strength in provinces. Bulk of members from middle class, though also intellectual and labor. Cross-sections political parties of center and right, also some Socialists. Non-partisan but with fundamental Christian philosophy. Highly respected by government. Far-reaching social and civic program. Large and important; next to Union des Femmes Francaises (see 14), it is only nation-wide women's organization in France.

14. UNION DES FEMMES FRANCAISES (UFF)  
(Union of French Women) 1/

Communist organization, the largest party organization of women in France. Had 2,000,000 members right after World War II before its Communist connections were evident. In 1952 had about 80,000 members. A recent report of untested reliability 6/ claims, however, that the Communist women's and young women's organizations are much less powerful than before. Active minority with much money to spend. Nation-wide in organization and influence.

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15. UNION FRANCAISE DES ELECTRICES  
(French Union of Women Voters) 2/  
7 Rue Rembrandt, Paris 8

President: Mme. Malaterre-Sellier

Secretary: Mme. Simon-Bidaux

Founded 1909. Members c. 3,000. Founded to defend the rights and interest of women on legal, political, economic and social grounds; to send delegations to ministries, administrative bodies and Parliament.

16. UNION DES JEUNES FILLES DE FRANCE  
(Union of Young French Women) 5/  
9 Rue Hamblot, Paris

Secretary

General: Mauricette Van Houtte

Organized when the Federation des Jeunesses Communistes (Federation of Young Women Communists) was terminated. Membership has dropped from more than 100,000 to several tens of thousands.

REMARKS:

The Catholic groups listed above are likely to be sympathetic toward the Catholic Church view in politics. The MRP has drawn in general from such Catholic groups for its support. As organizations, however, they are not likely to follow any one party.

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SOURCE REFERENCES

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1. [REDACTED]
2. Mary Buchanan, ed., World Directory of Women's Organizations, London, World Directory of Women's Organizations, 1953, pp. 76-78.
3. State/OIR files note this as the Catholic Girl Guide organization with a membership of 200,000. The files also list a non-denominational FEDERATION DES ECLAIREUSES (Federation of Guides), with a membership of 30,000.
4. State despatch 3180, Paris, 14 Jun 54, Confidential.
5. State despatch 3229, Paris, 17 Jun 54, Confidential.
6. [REDACTED]

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